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# BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health:

DR. A. BARLOW, M.B. Ch.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

BRIERFIELD.

August, 1948.

TO the Chairman and Members,
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 170/47, an Interim Report only, on the lines of the 1946 report, is presented for the year 1947. It includes only essential or urgent matters, which have effected public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary conditions and Public Health administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1947, according to the Rate Book was 2,547, the Rateable Value being £43,538 and the sum represented by a penny rate - £181.

The social conditions were good; the chief industry is Cotton Weaving.

## VITAL STATISTICS

**POPULATION**

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General for Mid-1947 is 6,707.

**BIRTHS**

132 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1947, as follows:-

| | | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births | (Legitimate | 70 | 55 | 125 |
| | (Illegitimate | 4 | 3 | 7. |
| | | | | 132 |
| Stillbirths | | | 4 | 4. |

Comparative particulars with regard to Live Births, over the last five years, are given in the following table:-

| | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Live Births | 132. | 117. | 118. | 98 | 100. |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population | 19.6 | 17.6 | 18.6 | 15.5 | 15.7. |

**INFANTILE MORTALITY**

6 children under 1 year of age died during the year, as follows:-

| Cause of Death | Male | Female | Age |
|---|---|---|---|
| Diarrhoea | 2 | - | 1 month & 6 days. |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 | (m) 1 month<br>(f) 6 months. |
| Birth Injuries | - | 1 | 5 months |
| Septicaemia | 1 | - | 1 month. |

Comparative particulars with regard to Infantile Mortality, over the last five years, are given in the following table:-

| | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Deaths under 1 year | 6 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Inf. Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | 45.4 | 25.6 | 25.4 | 51.0 | 30.0. |

DEATHS

100 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1947, as follows:-

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths within the Urban District | 34 | 31 | 65. |
| Deaths outside District (in hospitals, Institutions, etc.) | 23 | 12 | 35. |
| | | | 100. |

Comparative particulars with regard to Deaths over the last five years are given in the following table:-

| | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Deaths | 100 | 113 | 92 | 99 | 80. |
| Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population. | 14.9 | 17.0 | 14.5 | 15.7 | 12.5 |

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during the year 1947.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

| Causes of Death | Under 1 yr. | 1- 5. | 5- 15. | 15- 25. | 25- 65. | 65 and over | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pul. Tuberculosis | | | | | 2. | | 2. |
| Syphilitic Diseases | | | | | 1. | | 1. |
| Cancer | | | | | 10. | 3. | 13. |
| Intra Cranial Vaso Lesions | | | | | 5. | 10. | 15. |
| Heart Disease | | | | | 9. | 22. | 31. |
| Bronchitis | | | 1. | | 1. | 1. | 3. |
| Pneumonia | 2. | | | | | | 2. |
| Ulcer of Stomach & Duod. | | | | | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| Diorrhoea | 2. | | | | | | 2. |
| Nephritis | | | | | | 3. | 3. |
| Conjl. Malf. Birth Injury. | 1. | | | | | | 1. |
| Suicide | | | | | 2. | | 2. |
| Road Accident | | | | | | 1. | 1. |
| Other Violent Causes | | | | | 2. | 1. | 3. |
| Senility | | | | | | 5. | 5. |
| Arterior Sclerosis | | | | | | 4. | 4. |
| Asthma | | | | | 3. | | 3. |
| Intestinal Obsn. | | | | | 1. | | 1. |
| Cholecystitis | | | | | 1. | | 1. |
| Colitis | | | | | | 1. | 1. |
| Rhumatoid Arthritis | | | | | | 1. | 1. |
| Enlarged Prostrate Gland | | | | | | 1. | 1. |
| Epilepsy | | | | | 1. | | 1. |
| Septicaemia | 1. | | | | | | 1. |
| | | | | | | | 100. |

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

This service is under the direction and control of the District Council. The Centre is open at the following times:-

| Day | Clinic | Times Open |
|---|---|---|
| Monday | Sunlight | from 2.0 p.m. |
| | Sale of Food | 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. |
| Tuesday | Immunisation | from 3.0 p.m. |
| | Antenatal (abnormal cases) | After Immunisation Clinic. |
| Wednesday | Antenatal | from 2.30 p.m. |
| Thursday | Infant Welfare (consultation, treatment). | 2.30 p.m. to 5.0 p.m. |
| Friday | Sale of Food, General enquiries and arrangements for consultations | 2.0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m. |
| | for mothers. | 2.0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m. |

Attendances at Clinics were as follows:-

### Infant Welfare Clinic

No. of times opened.....46.
No. of attendances.....3160.
Analysis of Attendances

| | |
|---|---|
| New Infants..... | 125 |
| Sub. " ..... | 2596 |
| New over 1 year..... | 8 |
| Sub. " " (1 - 2) | 295 |
| (2 - 5) | 136 |
| | 3160 |

### Consultations

No. of children seen by doctor 666.
Analysis:-

| | |
|---|---|
| New Infants..... | 100 |
| Subsequent Infants... | 484 |
| Overage (1 - 2)..... | 61 |
| (2 - 5)..... | 21 |
| | 666 |

### Antenatal Clinic

No. of times opened..... 51
No. of attendances..... 578.

### Sunlight Clinic

No. of times opened..... 44.
No. of attendances..... 163.

### Sale of Food

No. of times opened..... 103.
Quantity of Food Supplied.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dried Milk..... | 2,884 | lbs. |
| Virol..... | 774 | " |
| Virolax..... | 108 | " |
| Lactogal..... | 26 | " |
| Groats..... | 32 | " |
| Glucose..... | 442 | " |
| Barley..... | 23 | " |
| Emulsion..... | 36 | bottles |

VENEREAL DISEASE

The nearest clinic is at Burnley. Any cases discovered are advised to attend the Burnley Clinic.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

WATER

Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year. The water is of good quality and in good supply, apart from a few houses in Marsden Heights area where the supply is intermittent, and a few houses in various streets where, probably, the joint service pipes are too small. All houses in the District are supplied direct from public mains and there has been no evidence of any form of contamination. No examinations are made by us, as routine examinations are made by Nelson Corporation Water Department.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No extensions to sewers or sewage works were made during the year, and the existing services and arrangements have been efficiently maintained.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are approximately 9 pail closets in the District at isolated cottages in Marsden Heights.

SCAVANGING

This was carried out by the Council's own workmen, with a two-ton "Karrier" tipping wagon until the 30th November, 1947, when the "Karrier" was replaced by a "Bedford" two-ton tipper. Domestic refuse is collected weekly free of charge from private houses, shops and mills, and disposed of at the Council's Destructor Works.

SALVAGE

Salvage Work has been efficiently maintained, and the following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year:-

| Material | Weight | | | Amount Realised to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tons. | Cwt. | Qrs. | £. |
| Waste Paper | 79. | 10. | 0. | 590 |
| Scrap Iron | 6. | 0. | 3. | 10 |
| Pressed Tins | 26. | 13. | 0. | 40 |
| Bones | | 16. | 0. | 5 |
| Kitchen Waste | 60. | 14. | 0. | 87 |
| Rags | 1. | 1. | 3. | 18 |
| Bottles & Jars | 6. | 19. | 2. | 58 |
| | 181. | 15. | 0. | £ 808 |

Comparative figures regarding salvage over the last three years are shown in the following table:-

| | 1947 | | 1946 | | 1945 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Weight | Value £ | Weight | Value £ | Weight | Value £ |
| Total Salvage | 181.15.0. | 808 | 159.1.1. | 655 | 153.13.3. | 534. |

## SANITARY INSPECTION

| | No. of premises visited | Nuisances Discovered | Notices Prelim. | Notices Stat. | Remedied |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sanitary Inspections during 1947 (including housing) | 2,007 | 72 | 72 | 3 | 69 |

## DISINFESTATION

Houses found to be infested.....1
Houses disinfested.....1

When required disinfestation is by means of "Vermicine" and "Cescones" poison gas, carried out by the Local Authority, at the expense of the owner or occupier.

## HOUSING

CONDITIONS

The majority of the houses are in rows, stone-built, about 50 years old. Later types are brick-built semis mainly, many of the houses being owner-occupied and well maintained.

STATISTICS

28 Traditional permanent houses were erected during the year and 28 permanent houses were in hand at 31st December 1947.

OVERCROWDING — 39 new cases of overcrowding occurred during the year, and 61 dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year.

HOUSES REQUIRED TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING — There is a definite shortage of 3 bedroom type houses. To meet overcrowding 48 three bedroom and 13 four bedroom type houses are required. Houses are also required for newly married couples and bungalows for old people living with their children.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

DAIRIES COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS — The milk supply is plentiful and its quality wholesome and it is distributed throughout the District directly chiefly by farmers in the vicinity. Retail milk purveyors registered with the Council.....45

Producers of milk registered with the Council..... 6

Periodical inspections of places where food is prepared have been made, and the premises generally have been found in good order. Periodically, bacteriological examinations of samples of milk are made by the County Council.

MEAT — All slaughtering has been transferred to Abbattoirs outside the District.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of Infectious Diseases were visited upon notification, and where patients are not transferred to isolation hospital, they are isolated in one room of the house. Disinfectants are kept at the Town Hall and supplies are given to necessitous cases. Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin are also issued free to Medical Practitioners on application.

MEASLES — 17 cases of Measles were notified during the year. They were mostly of a mild type, with no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH — 40 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA — One case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. This case was immunised before coming into the district and was ill for only 24 hours but took about three months to clear of K.L.B.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria has again met with a good response during the year. I visited the schools in the district during September and October and Immunised any child who had not already had a full course of treatment and also gave reinforcing injections to children who have previously been immunised, 4 or more years ago. The number of injections is summarised as follows:-

| Children Resident in Brierfield | | | Children Resident outside area | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. completed full course | No. given one reinforcing injection. | Total inject. | No. comp. full course | No. given 1 reinf. injectn. | Total injec. |
| 75 | 122 | 347 | 7 | 32 | 53 |

Immunisation State of child population as at 31st December 1947:-

| | Under 5 yr. of age | Over 5 and under 15 | Total under 15 yrs of age. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated mid-year population 1947 | 380 | 776 | 1,156 |
| No. of children imm. up to 31st Dec. 1947 | 250 | 565 | 815 |
| % Immunised | 70% | 73% | 70% |

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

| AGE PERIOD | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 - 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 - 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 - 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 20 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 - 25 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 35 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 - 65 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Over 65 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 1 | 4 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| | 5 | | - | | 2 | | - | |

CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER 1947.

On the register at the end of December 1947 there were 34 cases of Tuberculosis, 19 Pulmonary and 15 Non-Pulmonary.

| | Under 1 Yr. | 1-5. | 5-15 | 15-25. | 25-35. | 35-45. | 45-55. | 55-65. | Over 65. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | | | | 3. | 6. | 4. | 4. | 2. | | 19. |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spine | | | 1. | | | 1. | | | | 2. |
| Cervical glands | | | 2. | 2. | 2. | 1. | | | | 7. |
| Testis | | | | | | | 1. | | | 1. |
| Bladder & Kidney | | | | | | | | | 1. | 1. |
| Left Hand | | | | | | | | | 1. | 1. |
| Abdomen | | | 1. | | | | | | | 1. |
| Rt. Knee Joint | | | 1. | | | | | | | 1. |
| Both Legs | | | | | | | 1. | | | 1. |
| | - | - | 5. | 5. | 8. | 6. | 6. | 2. | 2. | 34. |

As these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer we have no direct information about the number of cases receiving allowances.

LABORATORY WORK

SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING YEAR 1947.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swabs for Diphtheria..... | Positive | 1. | Negative | 4. |
| Faeces: Pathogenic organisms.... | " | 0. | " | 2. |
| Sputum for Tuberculosis..... | " | 1. | " | 5. |

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Arrangements for Home Helps were made in 5 cases, Grants in aid of Hospital accommodation in 5 cases. Maternity outfits are now supplied by the County Midwife.

BIRTHS

Number of births notified during the year under the Notification of Births act, 1907, Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or Section 255 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 as adjusted by any trnasfer notifications:-

(a) Live Births.....132
(b) Still Births..... 4
(c) Total Births.....136
(d) By Midwives.....100
(e) By Doctors & Parents... 32

The following table gives the total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified and the ages during 1947:-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

| | Total cases at all ages | Under 1 year | 1 to 2. | 2 to 3. | 3 to 4. | 4. to 5. | 5 to 10. | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20. | 20 to 35. | 35 to 45. | 45 to 65 | 65 and over | Total Deaths | Total cases removed to Hospital from the District. | Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Measles | 17 | 2. | 4. | 3. | | 3. | 3. | 2. | | | | | | | 2 | |
| Whooping Cough | 40 | 7. | 5. | 10. | 2. | 9. | 7. | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | | | 1. | | | 4. | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Erysipelas | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 2. | | 3. | | 2 | |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 2. | | | | | | | | 1. | | 1. | | 2. | | |
| Diphtheria | 1 | | | | | | | 1. | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2. | | | | | 1 | |
| | 74 | 11. | 9. | 14. | 2. | 12. | 14. | 3. | - | 3. | 2. | 1. | 3. | 2. | 10 | Nil |

**HEALTH VISITING**

The number of visits made by the Health Visitor during the year are as follows:-

VISITS

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of houses visited..... | 718 |
| Total number of visits..... | 1141 |

ANALYSIS

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth Visits..... | 171 |
| 0 - 1 " ..... | 325 |
| 1 - 2 " ..... | 233 |
| 2 - 5 " ..... | 137 |
| Ante Natal Visits..... | 36 |
| Post Natal " ..... | 155 |
| Infectious Diseases Visits..... | 54 |
| Still Births " ..... | 4 |
| Child Life Protection " ..... | 26 |
| TOTAL.... | 1,141 |

**INFANT WELFARE CENTRE**

Total number of children who first attended at the Centre during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were:-

(i) Under 1 year of age.....125
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 yrs... 8

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the centre during the year and who, at the end of the year were:-

(i) Under 1 year of age.....108
(ii) Over 1 year of age.....207

**ANTENATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES.**

Number of women who attended ante-natal clinics during the year.....137.
Total number of attendances.....578.
Number of women who attended post-natal clinics during the year..... 2.
Total number of attendances..... 7.

**MATERNAL DEATHS**

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

**PREMATURE BIRTHS**

"Flying Squad" for emergency cases is stationed at Municipal Hospital, Burnley. Arrangements made with the Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley to admit premature infants, born at home, as circumstances require.

**ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN**

No social workers in this area. Burnley and District House of Help and local clergy supervise generally.

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